The Call Letter

January, 2015
Vol. 41 – No. 1

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 10TH, 2015

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

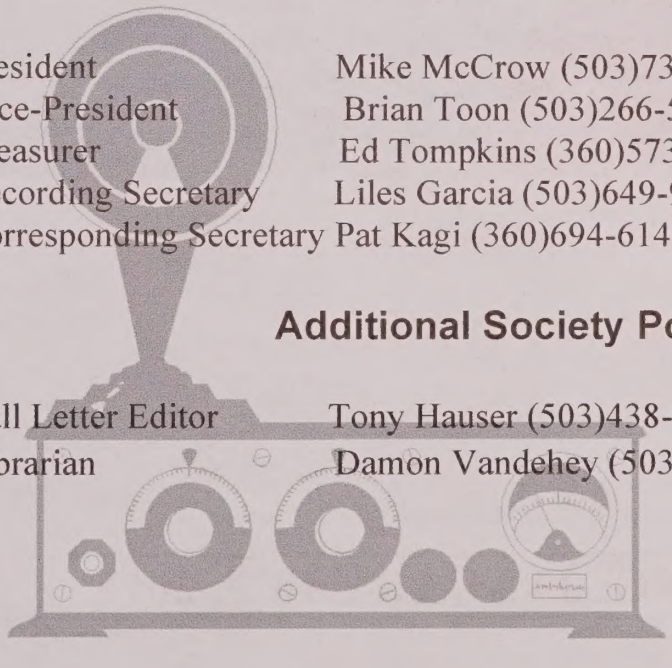
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2015:

President	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	tranny53@frontier.com
Vice-President	Brian Toon (503)266-5527	
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360)573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia (503)649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Kagi (360)694-6149	kagi.pat@con-way.com

Additional Society Positions:

Call Letter Editor	Tony Hauser (503)438-0297	abhauser@aol.com
Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503)459-1777	



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On the cover: Another well-planned and executed Christmas party last month by President-elect Mike McCrow. Mike has done a great job coordinating these parties the last three years making them highlight events on our annual calendar.

This Month: Annual NWVRS meeting. Display: Mystery Radios.

Visit our web site at www.nwvrs.com
and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NWVRS

Next *Call Letter* deadline: ????

The *Call Letter* is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items or services offered for sale. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

From The Editor

By Editor Tony Hauser

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to the Northwest Vintage Radio Society! This month marks our 40th anniversary in existence. I hope all of you have enjoyed our articles over this last year that took a look back at hour history. This month I've included an updated version of a history of the *Call Letter* that was originally written by our previous editor, Rick Walton, for our 30th anniversary ten years ago. I have also written an article looking back at the history of our membership over the last forty years.

Congratulations are also in order for our new Board of Directors for 2015. President Mike McCrow, Vice-President Brian Toon, Treasurer Ed Tompkins, Recording Secretary Liles Garcia, and Corresponding Secretary Pat Kagi will be sitting front-and-center at our meetings this year. All of us owe our outgoing board members Sid Saul, Charlie Kent, Wendy Johnson-Kent, and Mark Moore our sincere thanks for their many hours of effort in helping to make this Society what it is today.

It's amazing to me that a full three years have already past since I took over the reins as editor from Rick Walton. It has been a great learning experience and a very time-consuming endeavor. I owe my sincere thanks to our staff and writers; Chris Butler, Pat Kagi, Charlie Kent, Sid Saul, Art Redman, David Wise, Dick Karman, Mike McCrow, and all of our other contributors. They made my job a much easier one.

As I end my tenure with this issue, the Society finds itself, once again, in the unenviable position of having no successor to the editorship of the *Call Letter.* One year ago, I continued the tradition, started by my predecessor, of announcing my resignation one year in advance to allow time for someone to step forward and assume control of our newsletter. To date, we have no one confirmed. However, I believe that someone among our ranks will certainly step forward soon to continue the *Call Letter* tradition this club has enjoyed for the last forty years.

My thanks to all for the many kind and encouraging words you have given me as your editor.

Remember, the dial stops here (for the final time),

Tony Hauser

December NWVRS Meeting Minutes

By Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

President Sid Saul called the December 13, 2014 Northwest Vintage Radio Society Christmas Party meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He wished all a congratulations for NWVRS' 40th Anniversary. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our President. Members and many spouses had the attendance count at 58 people.

Health and Welfare

Ray Holland and his wife, who was in a serious car accident, were present. All wished her a continued full recovery. Alan Shadduck is back and fully recovered from his surgery. Tony Hauser's wife, Jean Louise, is back home recovering after five weeks in the hospital.

Holiday Party Kudos

Sid thanked Mike and Janet McCrow for their lovely holiday table displays, poinsettias, for finding and ordering NWVRS pocket calendars, and for donating five $10 gift cards for the raffle. Brian Snawder supplied the linens and glassware from his work; Charlie and Wendy Kent donated three table top radios for drawings, Santa mugs for part of the centerpiece display and brought the soda and sparkling cider drinks; Liles Garcia brought two hams; and Dick Karman, who is vacationing at Disneyland, supplied the CD music.

Roster

Members present who have not had their picture taken for the next NWVRS roster were encouraged to seek Chris Butler out to have it taken. Thanks was given to Blake Dietze and Brian Snawder for offering to do the roster printing.

Next Lombard Swap

The next Lombard swap meet will be April 18, 2015. Charlie Kent asked for and said he'd welcome suggestions to continually make the event even more of a success.

Elections

A member vote to make an exception to the Bylaws allowing for proxy vote received a unanimous result. Jerry Hertel, Jeff LaDoe and James Harper handled the voting ballots. Election results were announced of Mike McCrow being elected 2015 President and Brian Toon being elected 2015 Vice President. Liles Garcia as Secretary and Ed Tompkins as Treasurer were unopposed.

Kudos was given to Robbie Robinson for his work as librarian. The ask for a volunteer to be our next librarian was made and Damon Vandehey stepped up for the position and was given a round of applause.

Monthly Feature

Mike McCrow reminded all the Monthly Feature selected for January will be a **"Mystery Radio"** Item.

Announcement of Upcoming Auction

Charlie Kent announced Mike Parker's widow will have an auction of Mike's radios and related items on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at 10:00 am. As more information and confirmation of the location is learned, it will be shared. This is a non-NWVRS auction event.

Christmas Party

A buffet line early lunch of delicious food supplied by the club and brought by members was enjoyed by all. Drawings for the gift cards, radios, poinsettias, and table decorations were made throughout the meal. The event wound down at about 12 noon.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amJradio/hf/hf.htm

The PSARA monthly meeting information comes from The Horn of Plenty. Times/dates/locations subject to change.

January 10 **NWVRS Annual Meeting** 10am; Tailgate swap 8:30am; Induction of 2015 Board of Directors. Monthly feature: Mystery Radios.

February 14 **NWVRS Monthly Meeting** 10am; Tailgate swap 8:30am; Monthly feature: TBD.

February 14 **Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet.** Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. www.w7sra.com

March 7 **Mike & Key Swap Meet** Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm

March 14 **NWVRS Monthly Meeting** 10am; Tailgate swap 8:30am; Monthly feature: TBD.

April 11 **Yakima Hamfest** Selah Civic Center, 216 S 1 ST, Selah, WA. www.yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/

April 18 **NWVRS Spring Show and Sale** North Lombard Eagles Lodge, Portland, OR. Event schedule TBD.

August 16 **PSARA Swapmeet** 9am-1pm; Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA. www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/

NWVRS Membership History

By editor Tony Hauser

With this month marking our Society's 40th anniversary, I thought it would be interesting to take a look at how our membership has changed over the years. Fortunately, our original constitution included the list of the original 37 charter members. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had an official count of the number of members until 1982 when our first roster was included in the May issue of The Call Letter showing 49 paid members.

Since then, membership rosters have been published annually with a few exceptions. Our first year with over 100 members was 1989 with 109 members during Dan Howard's second consecutive year as President. We then eclipsed 125 in 1994 when Ed Pittaway was president; we had 138 members that year. In 1996, we had our largest membership ever at 163 during Greg Bonn's second year as President.

Our numbers began a steady decline after that year reaching 102 members in 2007. But, by 2009, George Kirkwood's fifth consecutive year as President, we had jumped up to 131 members. In 2012, President Mark Moore saw another big bump in membership, from 124 the year before, to 152. We have maintained our numbers under Sid Saul's leadership, with 156 members in the most recent roster (October of 2013), our second-highest total ever.

Here is the complete list for our first forty years:

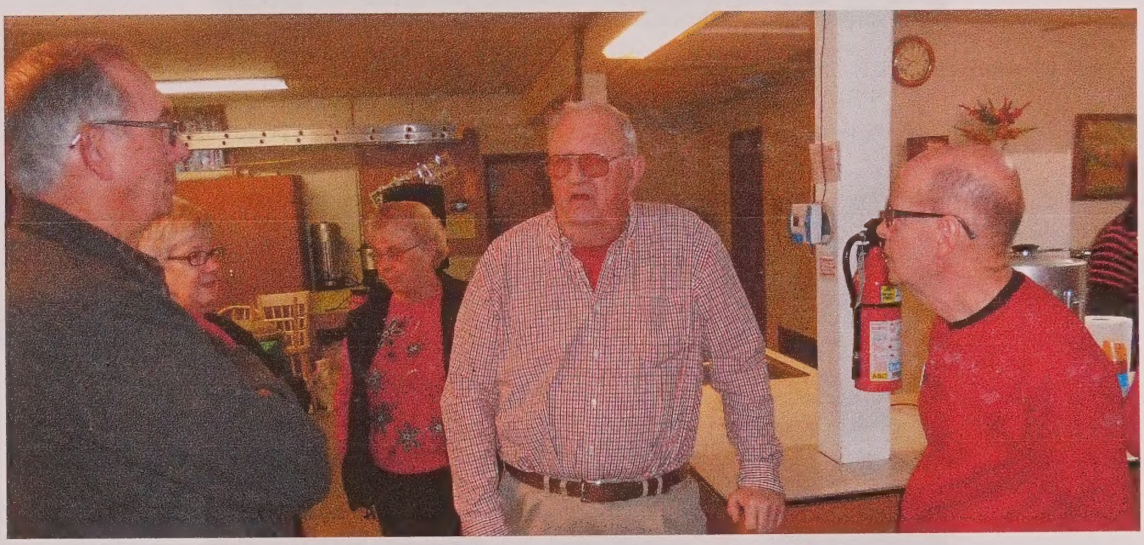
YEAR	MEMBERS
1975	37
1976	
1977	
1978	
1979	
1980	
1981	
1982	49
1983	
1984	
1985	54
1986	
1987	68
1988	
1989	109
1990	96
1991	103
1992	102
1993	105
1994	138

YEAR	MEMBERS
1995	
1996	163
1997	145
1998	140
1999	133
2000	129
2001	
2002	110
2003	119
2004	
2005	113
2006	
2007	102
2008	
2009	131
2010	123
2011	124
2012	152
2013	156
2014	

December Christmas Party

By Call Letter Photographer Chris Butler

December Christmas Party



NW Vintage Radio Society Call Letter

Looking Back: 40 Years in Print

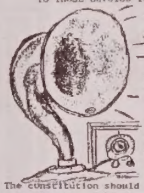
by Rick Walton and Tony Hauser

Forty years ago this month, the members of our fledgling radio collectors club met to decide on a name for the club and to adopt a constitution. The invitation to this meeting went out to the members via the newsletter that you see here, the newsletter that is considered to be issue #1 of the monthly publication that is now the *Call Letter*.

Over the past forty years the *Call Letter* has been edited by a number of folks, and has changed its appearance several times, but it has always remained the source of information for the membership about the club, its members, and its activities.

The first newsletter editor was Bob Bilbie, one of the leaders in the founding of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. During his term as editor, the newsletter remained in essentially the hand-typed, mimeographed format of that first letter signed by President Harley Perkins.

TO THOSE DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OLD RADIOS



Two important agenda items for the next club meeting Jan. 11, 1975, Buena Vista Clubhouse, Oregon City, 10AM:

1. Selection of the club's name
2. Final draft for the club constitution

No doubt there will probably be as many names as the club has members. Agreement may require our best spirit of compromise. Some important points in my opinion include simplicity, brevity and a clear identification of the hobby. The name should attract potential new members with interests like ours. It should say to the public at large that the club exists for the preservation and restoration of old radios--- that somebody really cares about that old relic they want to get rid of. Yes, that's a tall order for a brief simple name.

The constitution should make clear our purpose, who we are and how we will be conducting the club's business. Certainly it can't cover everything. Bylaws add to and clarify the intention of the constitution as the club matures. Art Redman is Chairman for development of the constitution. He will be sending each of us a draft of a possible constitution which can serve as a starting point.

Bob Bilbie suggested to me that I bring over a radio set, magazine etc. to the club meeting. I believe this would be a good policy for the future meetings. It would let us do a little "knob twisting" and reminiscing so that we can all get better acquainted. If most of you are like me, there are dozens of old radios I've never heard of, much less seen, even though it is a hobby I have followed for 35 years.

We owe our thanks to Sandy Bilbie for finding such an excellent meeting room. Also, I am sure the club wouldn't have happened without her enthusiasm and the hours of phoning to get us all together.

In the first small get together we had to plan the first meeting of the club, at Sandy's house, we discussed the desireability of including spouse and family in the club membership. I personally would like to encourage couples in the club. Recognizing that mailing costs, etc. would not be greater for a husband and wife than a single member, a lesser dues for spouse will encourage an activeinterest in the hobby and provide an oppurtunity to "do things together". I wonder how the members feel about this.

Ron Waldron is Membership Chairman. He is developing an application form and coordinating publicity efforts to attract other members active in the hobby. We can help Ron by inviting hobbyists we know to the next meeting.

My editorializing in a sort of news letter form like this is intended to draw attention to important issues facing the club. It is your club to do with as the majority decide and not as any one individual would try to impose. I hope my comments are taken in that spirit and pledge to give everyone an opportunity to speak and be involved in helping together to make this unique club become pretty much what we all hope it could be. See you there!

Harley Perkins HAP 12/27/74

P.S. Joe Tompkins, Salem, will be editing a swap sheet. If you have stuff you would like to sell, buy or trade or have leads to non members having a desire to get rid of same, please bring the information to the next meeting.

NORTHWEST VINTAGE

RADIO

SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OLD TIME RADIO EQUIPMENT

President: Harley A. Perkins — Secretary: Sandy Bilbie

Vice President: Peter Young — Treasurer: Bob Bilbie

Meetings: Second Saturday of each month at Buenavista Club House, Sixteenth and Jackson, Oregon City, Oregon. 10:00 AM.

Information, call: 645-4633 or 659-7735

The club now has a name and a draft of the Constitution approved. About 25 radio hobbyists attended the January meeting to see the club off to an enthusiastic start. The majority have already paid their dues of ten dollars and will be listed as charter members of the club. Any others who still wish to join and have confirmed their standing by payment of dues before the first of March will also be listed as charter members. The Board of Directors has decided that after February, new members should use the regular application forms and follow the procedure prescribed by the Constitution. A mailing list of members and known potential members will be distributed to the members in good standing at the February 8, 1975 meeting of the club.

The first Swap Meet is planned for late in March. Details will need to be worked out. Already the club has been asked to show some of our radios at several places. A display at Mall 205 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of broadcasting in Portland has been approved by the club. You might be interested to know that the Call Book for Fall, 1925 lists the following broadcast stations in Portland: KFEC, KFIF, KFJR, KFWV and KGW. Vancouver Washington lists: KFVL. The entry has the following to say about KGW: The Morning Oregonian, Portland, Ore. 491.5 meters, 610 kilocycles, 500 watts. Slogan: "Keep Growing Wiser".

Come and join in the fun! The few old radios and books at the last meeting were the center of a lot of attraction. Let's bring a lot more. CU there.

The second issue to appear carried the new banner of the club, the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Issue #3 had the first poetry. By Bob Bilbie, it was called "Ballad of the Radio Collector." Then in issue #4, the first poetry by Tom James appeared, called "The Old Timer's Lament." In the next issue, another and different Tom James poem appeared but with the same title. With those beginning poems began the *Call Letter's* longest running feature and contributor. For almost the next decade Tom contributed new poetry to the *Call Letter*.

In the June 25, 1975 issue (#7), the familiar "Hunkerdyne" logo made its first appearance. Bob Bilbie wrote that it was the "club logo by Don Hunker and 8 anonymous people who helped move the horn to the far end of the radio."

1st Anniversary Special Edition

An important issue during Bob's editorial reign was the first anniversary issue. This issue was important because not only did it celebrate the first full year of the club's operation, but it also carried for the first time the name that still graces the masthead, the *Call Letter.*

This edition was special in a number of ways. It was printed on heavy stock, with the text typeset rather than pasted typewriter text. It also made lavish use of graphics, and at eight pages was much larger than any previous issue. Much of this was the work of Mark Moore, who Bob Bilbie had described in an earlier newsletter as "the club's youngest member." As explained in that issue, Mark was the originator of the name *Call Letter.*

In April of 1976, another printed issue appeared that is noteworthy because Tom James' poetry, which had been carried under the heading of "Tom James' Poetry Hour" or "Tom James Poetry Corner," appeared for the first time under the heading "Atmospherics." Later altered to "Atmospherica," this title remains in use today when Tom's poetry is reprinted in the *Call Letter.*

In July of 1976 while Bob Bilbie was out of town, Mark Moore produced the *Call Letter* and did so in a way that previewed the future format. Mark produced the newsletter in the half-page booklet format that is still in use today. It was a one-time shot, and it would be another year before the format changed for good.

In February of 1977 the Ladies Auxiliary selected a recipe from "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes (1927)." It was the first appearance of a recipe in the *Call Letter*, and began a long series of articles that later appeared under the heading "Power Supply."

The following month, Tom James edited the *Call Letter* in the absence of Bob Bilbie, who was hospitalized due to a heart seizure. Ever ready with a limerick, Tom wrote:

Bob Bilbie, in the flea-market game
Went Hell-bent, to create a name.
But his "ticker" said, "NOPE,
Better slow down, you dope!"
And let someone else garner the fame.

Also of note in that issue was the appearance of a horn speaker as part of the "Atmospherics" heading, although the familiar striped horn did not appear until the June issue.

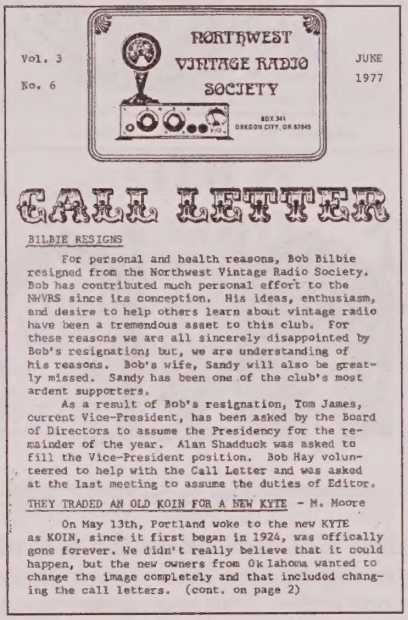
In April 1977, Bob Bilbie, in what was apparently a surprise move, announced his resignation from the *Call Letter* and from the club. It was his last issue. On an archived copy of that issue, Tom James inscribed this intriguing comment: "Note: this is the issue Bob Bilbie delivered to the house himself. He

NW Vintage Radio Society Call Letter

paused for nothing, not even to pass a genial greeting, so eager was he to be on his way. No real explanation has ever been given as to his real reason for 'bolting the party' – He has since made overtures to re-join our ranks, but as of this writing, has received no bids. TJ 9/8/79"

The next month in the June issue, the lead article carried the headline "Bilbie Resigns." Bob and his wife, Sandy, left the Northwest Vintage Radio Society "for personal and health reasons" according to the article, and gave up editing the *Call Letter*. The duties of editor passed on to Bob Hay, who "volunteered to help with the Call Letter and was asked … to assume the duties of Editor."

The most obvious change in that June issue of the *Call Letter* was the size and format. Bob adopted the half-size booklet format, which is still in use. Inside, new features appeared: "Power Supply" for reports from the Ladies Auxiliary, and "Swap Shop" for the classified ads that appeared. The following month the first paid advertisement appeared for "J.K. Hills, dealers in antiques and collectibles." Thus began a practice that continued for a decade or more and included advertisers such as Ja-Mac Speakers, Cascade Surplus Electronics, and Wacky Willy's.



Vol. 3
No. 6

NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

BOX 341
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

JUNE
1977

CALL LETTER

BILBIE RESIGNS

For personal and health reasons, Bob Bilbie resigned from the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Bob has contributed much personal effort to the NWVRS since its conception. His ideas, enthusiasm, and desire to help others learn about vintage radio have been a tremendous asset to this club. For these reasons we are all sincerely disappointed by Bob's resignation; but, we are understanding of his reasons. Bob's wife, Sandy will also be greatly missed. Sandy has been one of the club's most ardent supporters.

As a result of Bob's resignation, Tom James, current Vice-President, has been asked by the Board of Directors to assume the Presidency for the remainder of the year. Alan Shadduck was asked to fill the Vice-President position. Bob Hay volunteered to help with the Call Letter and was asked at the last meeting to assume the duties of Editor.

THEY TRADED AN OLD KOIN FOR A NEW KYTE - M. Moore

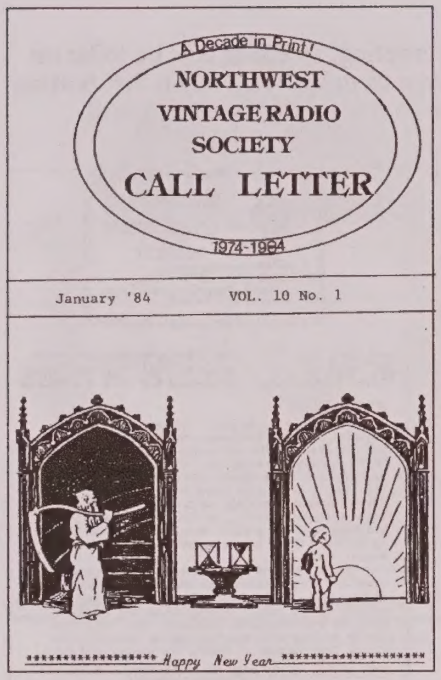
On May 13th, Portland woke to the new KYTE as KOIN, since it first began in 1924, was offically gone forever. We didn't really believe that it could happen, but the new owners from Oklahoma wanted to change the image completely and that included changing the call letters. (cont. on page 2)

The June, 1976 issue announcing Bob Bilbie's resignation.

In June of 1978, just a year after taking the reins, Bob Hay announced that this was his last *Call Letter*. Tom James stepped in to the position and it was his name listed as editor of the July issue. New headings for existing features included "Cartoon Clippings" often contributed by Art Redman, and "Radio Static" by Glen Gonshorowski (it was renamed "I.Q. Trimmer" the following January). Other contributors during Tom's tenure were Virginia Rankin with "Power Supply" and Hugh Rankin with "Our People."

In December of 1979, Tom announced his resignation as editor and turned the job over to Bill DeVey, who first edited the January 1980 issue. Tom James continued as a contributor with "Atmospherica" and "Olé" and Bobbie Kibler assumed the "Power Supply." A new feature in that issue was the table of contents.

In January of 1981, Jim Mason became the editor of the *Call Letter* although there had been no previous announcement. Perhaps this was because Bill DeVey was elected Vice President of the club in the December meeting. In that issue, "Wireless Quote of the Month" appeared as a new feature. In May, "Display News" by Dick Karman began to appear, and in June "Bits and Pieces" made its debut. In February of 1982, the meeting minutes began to appear in the *Call Letter*. In January of 1982, the last "Power Supply" column appeared although editors and writers referred to the Power Supply for years afterward when speaking of the Ladies Auxiliary. In March of 1982, "Our People" appeared for the last time, and in December, "Bits and Pieces" made its final appearance. In January of 1983, Jim announced that he was resigning as editor, and turning over the position to Dick Karman.



The *Call Letter* took on a new look with a Dick Karman in 1983. The "Gay 90's" lettering in the banner gave way to less flamboyant fonts, and after a couple of experiments, the cover settled into the format shown here in the January 1984 issue. This issue in particular is of note because the cover announces that it has been a full decade in print.

Features that began to appear during Dick's tenure as editor include "Yesterday" and "Pages from the Past."

In March of 1983, the first classified ads from the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association appeared in the *Call Letter*, often under the heading "Tradio."

Along with changes to the cover, Dick also made changes to the appearance of the text, including new graphics in the headings and new fonts in places.

In July of 1984, the *Call Letter* had the sad duty of announcing the passing of Tom James, poet, past editor, and regular contributor. Tom was, in the words of Dick Karman, "the longest (and only) continuous contributor" in the decade of the *Call Letter's* existence. On the cover of the July issue, Dick placed this self-portrait of Tom that had first appeared in the November 1976 issue. Dick obtained permission to continue printing Tom's poetry and writing, so that "Atmospherica" continued to appear regularly for more than a decade following Tom's death, and still appears occasionally in these pages.

In September of 1984, "Accession" replace "Olé" as the column that listed the most recent acquisitions reported by club members.

Dick Karman continued to edit the *Call Letter* for another three years before announcing his resignation as editor to the club in the June 1987 issue, citing the need to balance time for faith, family, and other interests with time spent editing the *Call Letter*.

In June of 1987, the job of editor passed to Ed Buhite, who made immediate changes to the appearance of the cover. The "Gay 90's" typeface returned to the banner harkening back to an earlier format, and a striped horn speaker appeared, although by October it was permanently replaced with the club logo and name in an ornate frame. In February 1988, "Olé" returned, replacing "Accession."

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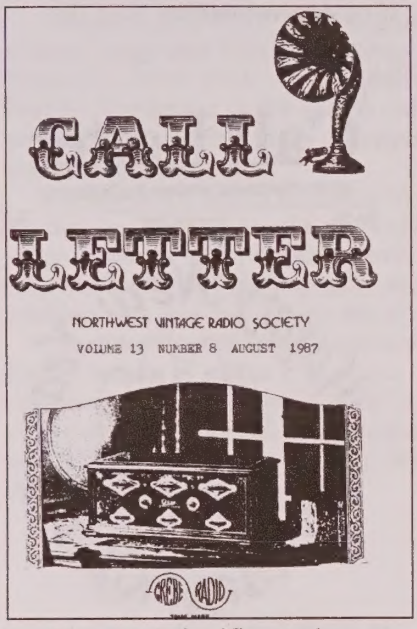
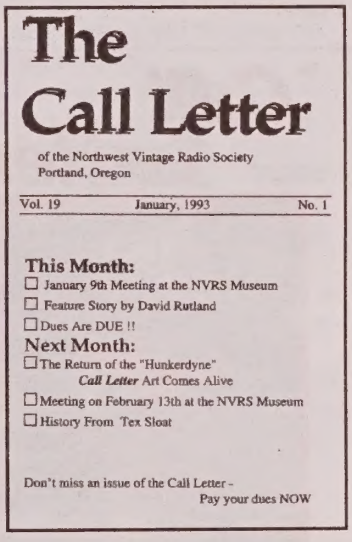


The most significant change took place in July of 1988, when the *Call Letter* merged with the *Horn of Plenty*, newsletter of the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. Minutes of both clubs' minutes appeared in the *Call Letter*, and when rosters were published, they included the memberships of both clubs.


The Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Portland, Oregon

Vol. 19 January, 1993 No. 1

This Month:
- ☐ January 9th Meeting at the NVRS Museum
- ☐ Feature Story by David Rutland
- ☐ Dues Are DUE !!

Next Month:
- ☐ The Return of the "Hunkerdyne" *Call Letter* Art Comes Alive
- ☐ Meeting on February 13th at the NVRS Museum
- ☐ History From Tex Sloat

Don't miss an issue of the Call Letter - Pay your dues NOW

In May of 1992, editorial responsibility began alternating between Seattle in the even months, and Portland in the odd months. David Dintenfass of PSARA was the interim editor in Seattle, sharing responsibility with Ed Buhite. But in October of 1992, David announced that he could no longer carry on as editor. That proved to be the last joint issue of the *Call Letter/Horn of Plenty*. In November, the *Call Letter* was the monthly newsletter of just the NWVRS, and was once again in the editorial hands of Dick Karman.

The front cover appearance changed with that issue, but just to a temporary format. With the January 1993 issue shown here, Dick arrived at the basic format that continued until February 2000.

Significant feature changes were the addition of Mike Parker's "In the Shack" in January of 1995, and Dick's own column "Wandering on the Web," a sure sign of the times that marked the merging of the antique radio hobby with the latest Internet technology. By the end of 1996, Dick once again realized he could no longer keep up the demands place on him by both his faith, his family, and the commitment to editing the *Call Letter*. In December of 1996, Dick resigned from his second tenure as editor having served a total of over eight years, longer than any other editor.

For the *Call Letter* this proved to be a crucial moment. Dick's resignation announcement in the December issue did not include his successor, because no

One had as yet stepped forward to do the job. In that same issue, the meeting minutes quote President Greg Bonn as saying, "if no one volunteers, then this publication is history.

At the December meeting the request was made again for a volunteer, and Rick Walton stuck his hand in the air. Rick was nervous about taking over because he feared he had neither the equipment nor the skills required, even though, by profession, he was a technical writer. With a lot of help from Dick Karman, he published a January 1997 issue. By the middle of the year he had produced an issue without assistance. From that time the tools he had to work with improved, including the addition of a scanner purchased by the club, and better word processing tools that he had acquired. The decision byt the membership in February 1999 to accept higher production costs resulted in much improved pictures and art work.

The
Call Letter
of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Vol. 24 January 1998 No. 1
Happy New Year 1998 Happy New Year
In print since 1974

In December of 1999, there began a tradition of publishing the cover of the December issue in color. That first color cover featured a pair of Arvins, one red, the other green, that belong to Dan Howard. That December issue also began the practice of printing the cover on glossy white paper.

The Call Letter
December, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 12
RADIO'S GREATEST MAGAZINE
RADIO NEWS
JANUARY 25 CENTS
WRNY
Over 25 years in print!

In February, 2000, the *Call Letter* received a slight face-lift to help celebrate the society's twenty-fifth anniversary. The cover format adopted then is the one still in use today.

In August of that year, we revived the latest acquisitions column, this time the the title of "Voila." In June, 2001, a new feature, "Play It Again, Sam!" premiered and continues sporadically. "Play It Again, Sam!" allows members to tell about restoration projects on which they are working or that they've completed. Because both "Voila" and "Play It Again, Sam!" depend on the willingness of members to submit written articles, those features tend to be a bit sporadic. In September, 2001, the last of Mike Parker's "In The Shack" articles appeared, although archived articles are occasionally re-run.

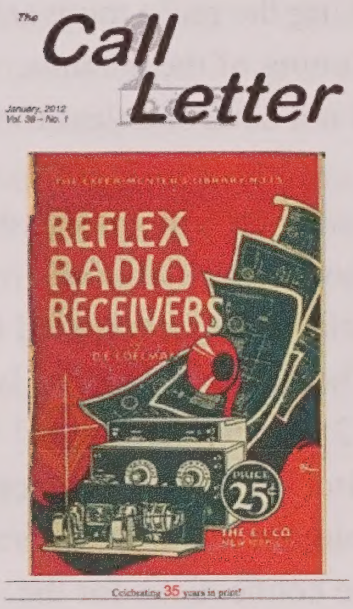
In November, 2000, the *Call Letter* first became available to members online. It was stored in PDFformat at the original eGroups (later Yahoo Groups) then later on the club's Google Groups site. Today, the PDF version is sent to all current members via email.

NW Vintage Radio Society Call Letter

Since April, 1997, Rick began including a monthly "NWVRS Calendar of Events" page that listed upcoming club meetings and show/sale events. In February, 2001, Rick started adding happenings from other related clubs in the Pacific Northwest to the events calendar. To this day it continues to be a monthly feature that plays an important part in informing the membership of interesting gatherings.

When Rick began as editor in January 1997 he probably never dreamt that his tenure as editor would run well into the next century. His fifteen consecutive years as editor will probably never be matched. Eventually, Rick also was responsible for all photography in the *Call Letter*, as well as keeping track of the mailing lists and publishing the club rosters.

Eventually, retirement and a pending move across the country brought Rick's tenure as editor to a close. In January of 2011, Rick put out the call for a replacement to be found by year's end. Tony Hauser (yours truly) was the only club member to step forward and accept. So, in December, 2011, I helped co-edit my first issue. By January, thanks to Rick's excellent training, I had completed my first solo issue.



A few things have changed since then, but the format and style of the *Call Letter* have stayed the same. By request of the Board of Directors, items such as the swap shop, the inside front cover tribute to Jim Mason, and the inside back cover meeting location map have been removed. Leads and Needs now appears within the meeting minutes, and the Jim Mason page and maps are now permanent fixtures on the NWVRS.com website.

The inside back cover is now home to a variety of items. I decided to create the "Tuned Into…" feature to allow fellow members the opportunity to provide a brief biography on themselves and their interest in radio and history with the club. The duties of photographer and control of the roster have been delegated to others as a way of easing the responsibilities of the editor.

As editor, I have been extremely fortunate to always have new material to include in the pages of each issue. This is due to the talented writing of members like Sid Saul, "The Aspiring Radiotrician," Art Redman, and his local radio historical pieces, David Wise, and his "Play it Again, Sam!" articles, and Charlie Kent, and his articles on community outreach activities, auction reports, and, of course, detailed meeting minutes as Recording Secretary.

I hope you have enjoyed this look back at the first forty years of the *Call Letter*. Now, at the end of my three-year run as your editor, it is my sincere hope that this will continue to be "a publication that informs members of the Society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios" in 2015 and beyond.

Mr. Cockaday and His Coil

By Art Redman

Laurence Cockaday became known in the radio field when he wrote Radiotelephony For Everyone in 1922 and became the Technical Editor of the magazine *Popular Radio*. In 1925, he wrote articles on how to Build A Five-Tube AC Receiver, Construct a Haynes-Griffin Superhetrodyne, a series of Simple Articles for Beginners, developed the McCullough AC tubes and receivers, and ending the year with How to Build the LC-26 Broadcast Receiver which sold as a kit followed by the model LC-27 and several receivers manufactured by Silver-Marshal.

Cockaday also is known for his invention of the four-circuit receiver with its' namesake Cockaday coil where the length of the antenna had nominal effect on tuning, making the radio more selective. Antennas of varying lengths changed the tuning of the antenna, which is the one component radio companies could not control unless the set included an enclosed loop antenna.

The semi-periodic primary of the antenna with the construction of a single-turn feedback coil, coil No 1 shown in the diagram from Drake's Radio Cyclopedia, made the inductance tiny compared to the total inductance of the antenna circuit. The one-turn primary is wound around the secondary winding of coil No. 2 forming an isolated tuning circuit coupled to the rest of the antenna circuit. Coil 4 is placed at right angles to the other three coils for minimum inductive interaction.

The Drake schematic illustrates the connections for the Four-Circuit Cockaday circuit and its' four windings on one coil. The tapped coil No 4 placed at right angles is in series with the antenna and ground and coarsely tunes the antenna-ground circuit. The antenna circuit is coupled to the grid circuit of the first tube through single turn coil 1 and 2. Coil 2 is tuned to resonance with a variable capacitor, providing a link coupling between coils 1 and 3. Coil 3 is likewise tuned to resonance with a second variable capacitor, this combination being connected in the grid circuit of the detector tube.

Laurence Cockaday never manufactured the Cockaday circuit nor the coil bearing his name for some unknown reason, never authorized the incorporation of his namesake circuit in Silver-Marshal sets despite his close association with McMurdo Silver, or in the kits bearing his name like the Cockaday models LC-26 and the LC-27. There are four-tube Silver-Cockaday models manufactured by Silver-Marshall: models SC-11 and model 620 sent to me by John V. Smith of St. Petersburg, Florida, whom I publicly thank, without a Cockaday circuit and the famous coil being the central part of the circuit.

Instead, Cockaday authorized the Precision Coil Company, Inc. of New York City to sell his coils constructed of eighteen-gauge copper wire molded on hard rubber for $5.50. The Company even advertised their RF Coupling Coils with the phrase "made by the makers of the famous Cockaday Coil." Cockaday left the promotion of his coil to the Precision Coil Company whom included the coil in kits offered by two Chicago kit companies.

Barawik Sets sold parts for the 1-tube at $10.40 and 3-tube kit priced at $19.75 and a 5-tube Cockaday set for $48.95 all complete with Cockaday coils. Another option for a collector to find a radio with the Cockaday circuit would be a 3-tube regenerative kit offered for $18.55 by the Randolph Radio Corporation in 1924 or, failing that, the Cockaday coil manufactured by the Precision Coil Company as advertised in Popular Radio.

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